THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) State Government of Chhattisgarh made a reference to the Ministry in this regard. The Ministry examined the matter and a temporary relaxation has been given for making wage payment to NREGA workers through Banks/Post offices in respect of Katakalyan, Kuakunda and Orcha blocks of districts of Dantewada and Bastar of Chhattisgarh keeping in view severe naxalite problem and outreach of Banks and Post Offices in this area.

(c) and (d) In case the State Governments face insurmountable difficulties in making wage payment to NREGA workers through Banks/Post offices and brings it to the notice of the Ministry, the Central Government may permit it to make wage payment in cash so that there is no hindrance in fulfillment of the objectives of the Act.

(e) The matter is under consideration of this Ministry.

Coverage of TSC in the country

3484. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC);

(b) how many villages have earned Nirmal Gram Puraskar for being free of open defecation;

(c) the roadmap for achievement of the dream of total sanitation in rural India by 2012; and

(d) the achievements made as regards total sanitation in the country during 2008, the International Year of Sanitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) Under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) district is considered as a unit for the purpose of sanctioning projects. As present 593 districts have already been covered with projects under TSC. All the Gram Panchayats of the districts are supposed to have been covered under the project.

(b) Till the year 2008, 18019 Gram Panchayats have been awarded Nirmal Gram Puraskar for being free of open defecation.

(c) Upscaling of the TSC has been taken up with the following initiatives to achieve total sanitation in rural India by 2012:—

- Launching of the incentive scheme of Nirmal Gram Puraskar to encourage the Panchayati Raj Institutions to take up sanitation promotion to achieve open defecation free status.
- The unit cost structure of the construction of individual household latrines has been increased to Rs. 2500 (Rs. 3000 for hilly and difficult areas) from the earlier Rs. 1500.
- Community contributions for construction of school and Anganwadi toilets have been removed and Centre and State share is fixed at 70:30.

- The component of Solid and Liquid Waste Management was included in TSC projects in 2006 for providing upto 10% of the district's project cost under the scheme for this purpose.
- In order to promote sanitation among APL households who do not get incentives under TSC, a revolving fund of Rs. 50 lakh subject to a ceiling of 5% of total project cost to each district has been earmarked for giving loan to APL members of self-help groups/cooperative societies for construction of toilets.
- Taking up Information, Education and Communication campaign and capacity building programmes.

(d) The achievements under TSC from 1st January, 2008 to 31 December, 2008, *i.e.* International Year of Sanitation is as under:—

Construction of Individual Household Toilets	:	1,18,16,635
School Toilets	:	2,62,212
Sanitary complex	:	3,161
Balwadi Toilets	:	76,788

During 2008, the Third South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN-III) was organized in New Delhi to develop a regional agenda on sanitation.

Modifying works under NREGA

3485. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the guidelines for selecting the projects for NREGA schemes do not provide suitable works for all sections of working people like women, young boys and girls possessing school education;

(b) whether the present projects do not suit persons of older groups also; and

(c) whether Government is going to formulate projects suiting agriculture, small industries, horticulture and the like?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) NREGA is demand based. The Act provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of wage employment per household in a year for doing unskilled manual work on demand. Adult members of a registered rural household may demand employment under the Act irrespective of their age and educational qualification.

(c) Works to be taken up under NREGA have been listed in para 1 of Schedule-I of the Act. Permissible works under NREGA are supportive of agriculture and horticulture.

Drinking water supply in Andhra Pradesh

3486. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is involving gram panchayats in providing safe water in the agency areas;